

# 2005 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

## CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA • JULY 25 - AUGUST 3, 2005

2005 Jamboree | Special Opportunities | Hometown News

## Be a Hometown News Correspondent

### What is the Hometown News Service?

Scouts participating in the 2005 National Scout Jamboree will have the unique opportunity to submit news stories about the jamboree for their local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. Hometown News correspondents will participate in a special training session and receive guidance from nationally recognized journalists and educators on writing articles and scripts, editing copy, and selecting photographs/video to accompany their stories. Hometown News correspondents will also have the privilege of interviewing journalists and celebrities attending the jamboree.



Astronaut Guy Bluford (holding the 2001 Hometown News patch) with Hometown News correspondents at a press conference at the Hometown News tent.

### Why should the council have Hometown News correspondents?

Use your Hometown News correspondents to share the excitement of the 2005 National Scout Jamboree with everyone in your council area. Hometown News provides the opportunity to share Scouting stories with your community.\* Hometown News takes the jamboree story home for Scouts, Scouters, parents, and potential members directly from the jamboree.\*\*

\* Hometown News correspondents can assist council efforts by creating awareness about Scouting programs and activities.

\*\* Parents, community leaders, and current and potential members, supporters, and chartered organizations will see Scouting adventures coming to life vividly through the eyes of a Scout.

### How many correspondents may a jamboree unit have?

The jamboree unit is not limited to one correspondent; it may have as many as necessary to cover local media organizations.

### What benefits are there for Hometown News correspondents?

Hometown News provides unique opportunities for hands-on journalism experience for Scout

correspondents.

1. Correspondents will develop, write, and edit stories for placement in local media organizations.
2. Not only will Hometown News correspondents challenge themselves to compose clear and interesting jamboree stories (following a deadline of their appropriate news organization), but they also will experience the excitement of knowing their story will be published or broadcast back home.
3. Participants will have the chance to see behind the scenes—how the jamboree works—and meet special guests like astronauts, movie directors, entertainers, members of Congress, and the Chief Scout Executive.

## Incentive program

An incentive program is provided for those who participate in Hometown News and have their stories sent to local media organizations. Patches, hat pins, and the use of bicycles at the jamboree have been previous Hometown News correspondent incentives.

## What are the qualifications for being a Hometown News correspondent?

1. Be a registered member of a jamboree unit.
2. Receive approval from your jamboree Scoutmaster.
3. Receive approval from at least one of your local media organizations served.
4. Read the Journalism merit badge pamphlet. Begin work on the requirements and meet with your merit badge counselor. Set a personal goal to complete the merit badge before the jamboree.
5. Be familiar with Microsoft Word®.
6. Be prepared to write your stories at the Hometown News tent.



2001 Hometown News correspondents writing stories at the Hometown News tent.

**Optional:** If you plan to take photographs, provide your own 35mm camera (35mm film will be provided for news coverage) or digital camera (some digital cameras will be provided by Hometown News, but availability cannot be guaranteed).

## How can the council facilitate a local Hometown News program?

Provide this assistance for correspondents:

1. Identify media organizations in the community that would be open to publishing or showing Hometown News stories. Be sure to focus on those media organizations that have the most news or features on community events and organizations.
2. Identify media sources that attract adults and Scouting-age youth.
3. Make a list of prospective media contacts based on the points listed above. Determine whom to contact. For example, at a newspaper, it will likely be the news editor. At a radio

or television station, it will likely be the program director, news editor, or community service director.

4. Assist each correspondent in making media contacts:
  - o Call and ask to stop in to discuss jamboree Hometown News.
  - o Call at a good time (morning rather than afternoon).
  - o Be sure the Scout has a confirmed media contact for each organization.

## Jamboree Scoutmaster

1. Encourage Scouts to become Hometown News correspondents.
2. Assist in the selection of correspondents.
3. Support correspondents at the jamboree.

## Jamboree committee

1. This is a great time not only to help your council but also to give Scouts the tremendous opportunity of serving as your working journalists.
2. Assist your Scouts in making news organization contacts throughout the council area and provide training for them before they leave for the jamboree.

## Registration

Once a Scout has been selected to be a Hometown News correspondent, he should complete the application form below. Approval of the jamboree Scoutmaster is required. Applications should be sent as soon as completed and no later than June 15, 2005, to the 2005 National Scout Jamboree Hometown News Service at the national office of the Boy Scouts of America.

## Resources

- [Home Town News Brochure](#) - includes the application form
- [Home Town News Application Form](#)

